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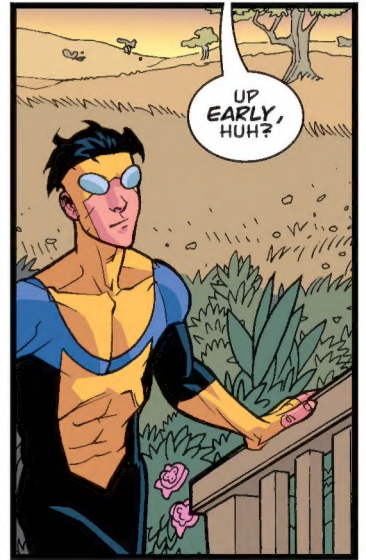
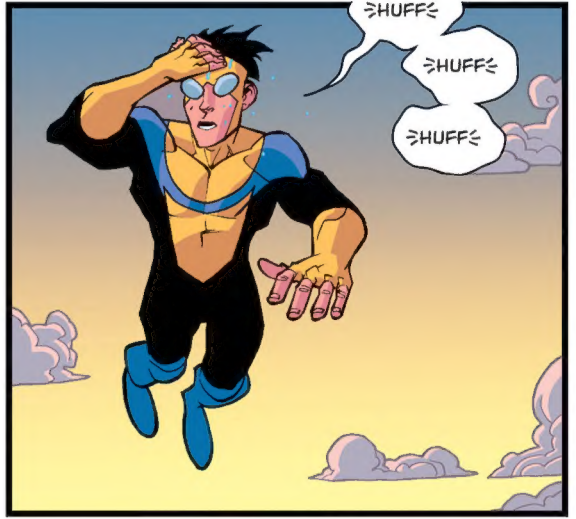
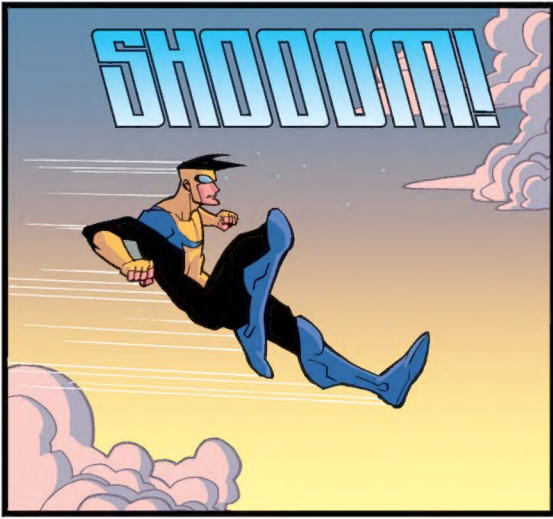
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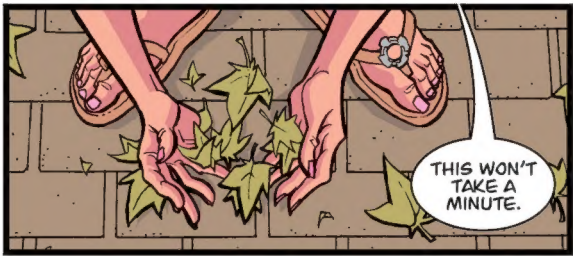
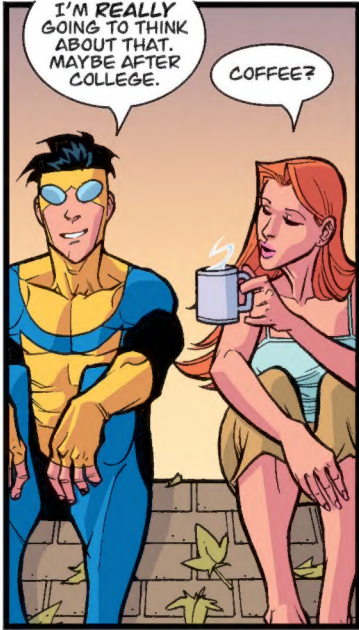
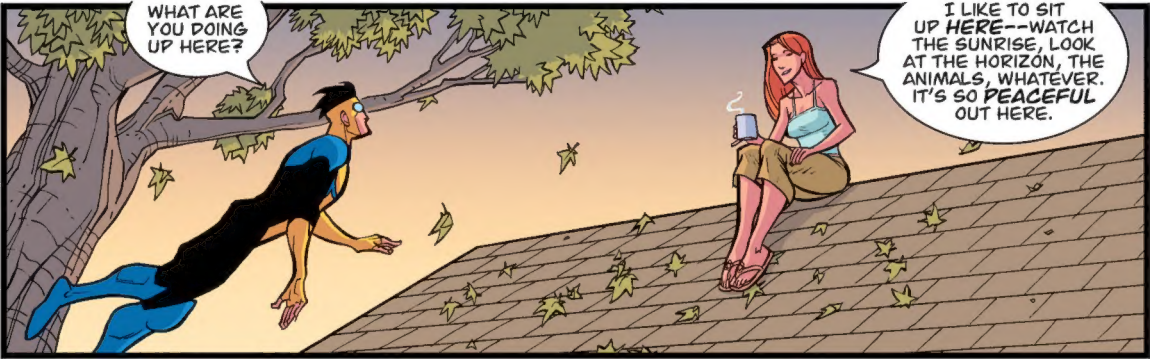
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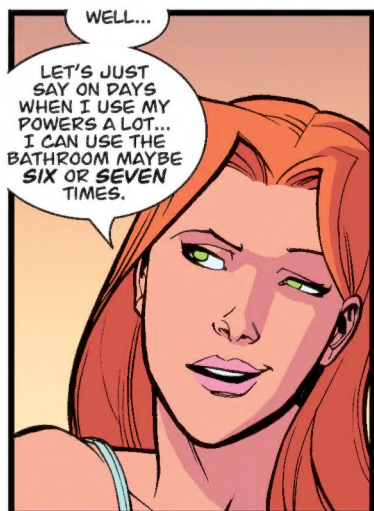
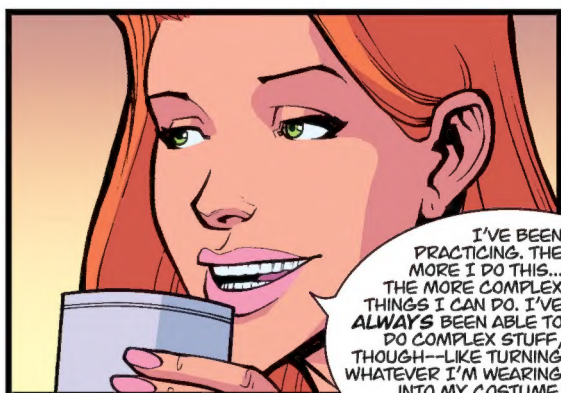
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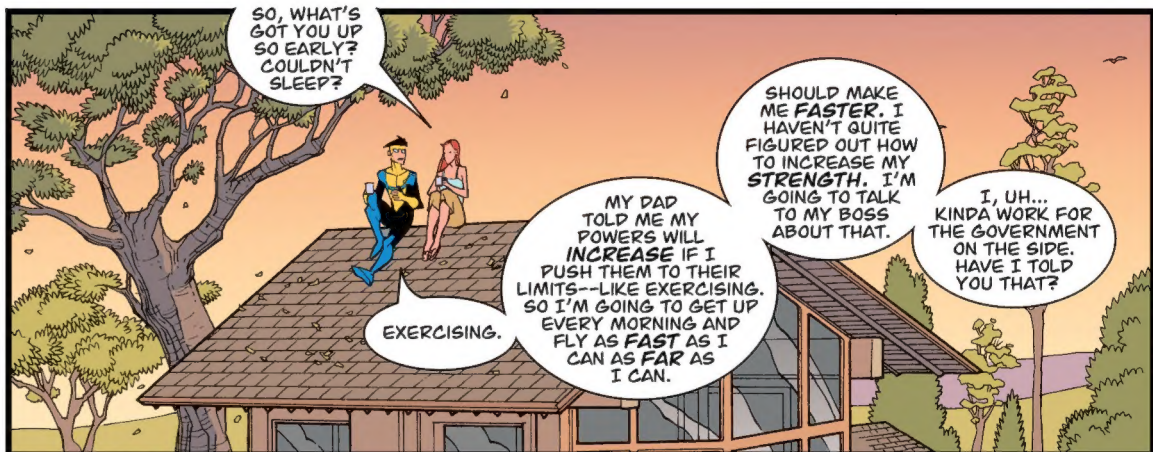
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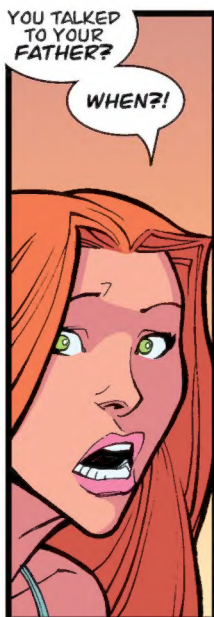
SO, WHAT'S GOT YOU UP SO EARLY? COULDN'T SLEEP?

EXERCISING.

MY DAD TOLD ME MY POWERS WILL INCREASE IF I PUSH THEM TO THEIR LIMITS--LIKE EXERCISING. SO I'M GOING TO GET UP EVERY MORNING AND FLY AS FAST AS I CAN AS FAR AS I CAN.

SHOULD MAKE ME FASTER. I HAVEN'T QUITE FIGURED OUT HOW TO INCREASE MY STRENGTH. I'M GOING TO TALK TO MY BOSS ABOUT THAT.

I, UH... KINDA WORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT ON THE SIDE. HAVE I TOLD YOU THAT?

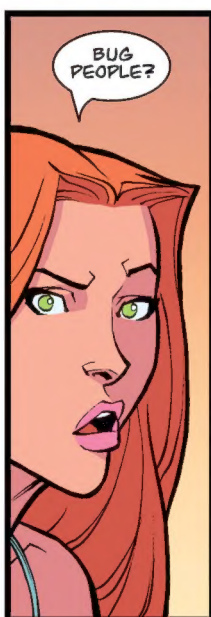


YOU TALKED TO YOUR FATHER?

WHEN?!



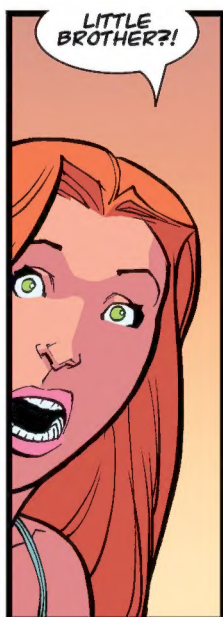
HE WAS ON THAT PLANET I WENT TO THE ONE WITH THE BUG PEOPLE?



BUG PEOPLE?



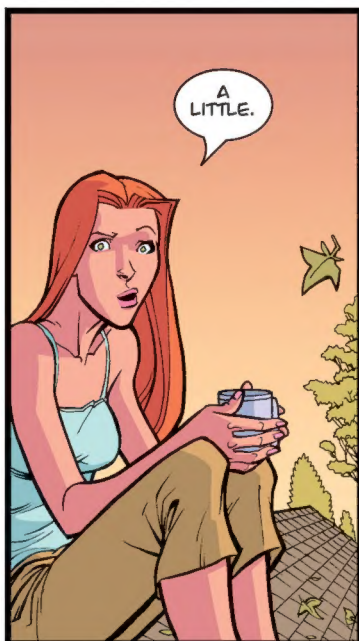
YEAH, THE PLANET WHERE MY BROTHER'S MOTHER CAME FROM-- WHERE I GOT MY LITTLE BROTHER...



LITTLE BROTHER?!



SO, UH... LOOKS LIKE I'VE GOT A LITTLE EXPLAINING TO DO.



A LITTLE.



OKAY... WHERE DO I BEGIN? SCIENCE DOG CAME TO MY HOUSE...

ONE HOUR AND A LONG EXPLANATION LATER.

AND YOU JUST LET THEM TAKE HIM? I MEAN, YOU DIDN'T TRY TO STOP THEM?

I COULDN'T STAND UP... LET ALONE FIGHT ANYONE. IT WAS THE WORST FIGHT I'VE EVER BEEN IN, WORSE THAN THE ONE WITH MY DAD.

YOU BELIEVE HIM?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YOU THINK HE REALLY CHANGED HIS WAYS? YOUR DAD, I MEAN. OR DO YOU THINK HE LIED TO YOU TO GET YOU TO HELP HIM?

I DON'T KNOW. I'M TRYING TO NOT THINK ABOUT IT. I'M TOO BUSY TRYING TO CONVINCE MYSELF THAT THE VILTRUMITES HAVEN'T EXECUTED HIM YET... AND THAT I'M GOING TO SOMEHOW BE ABLE TO SAVE HIM.

MARK?

CAN WE JUST CHANGE THE SUBJECT?

I'D REALLY LIKE TO JUST CHANGE THE SUBJECT.

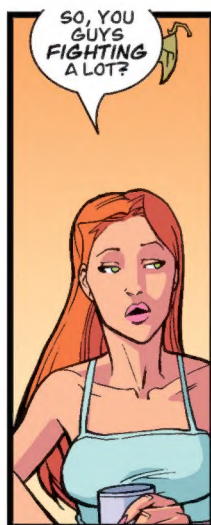
SO... AMBER STILL SLEEPING? WHERE IS SHE?

WHEN I LEFT THIS MORNING SHE WAS. I GUESS SHE STILL IS.

HOW ARE THINGS GOING BETWEEN YOU?

GOOD, I GUESS. I HAVEN'T REALLY GOTTEN TO SEE HER MUCH, BEING OUT IN SPACE AND ALL.

SHE CERTAINLY WASN'T HAPPY ABOUT THAT.



SO, YOU GUYS FIGHTING A LOT?



NOT A LOT. SOME.



HOW IS THAT?

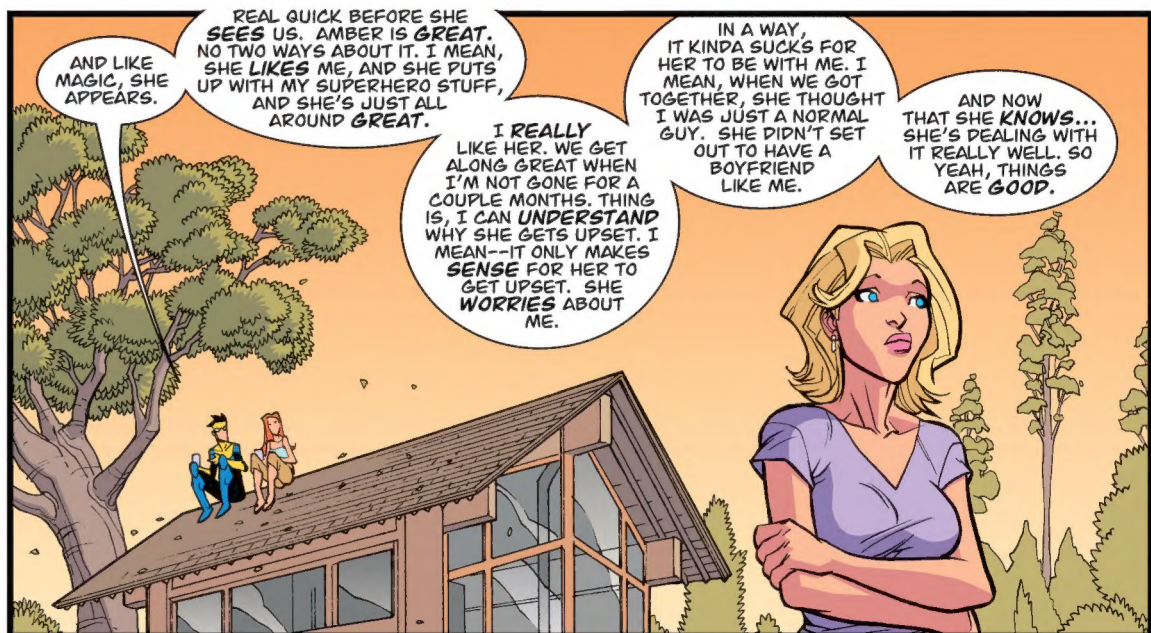


I DON'T KNOW. FINE. WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I MEAN--I DON'T KNOW. CAN YOU RELATE TO HER? I MEAN, THERE ARE A LOT OF DIFFERENCES THERE.



I THINK THAT'S WHAT MY MAIN PROBLEM WAS. WE DIDN'T RELATE... Y'KNOW... AT ALL.



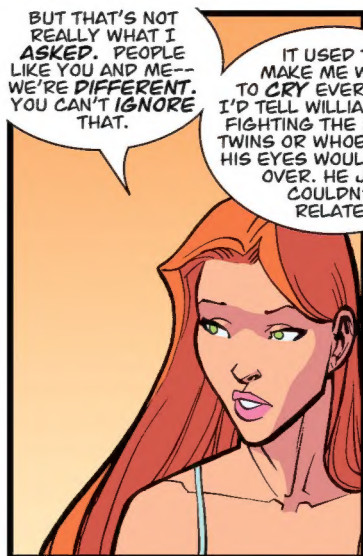
AND LIKE MAGIC, SHE APPEARS.

REAL QUICK BEFORE SHE SEES US. AMBER IS GREAT. NO TWO WAYS ABOUT IT. I MEAN, SHE LIKES ME, AND SHE PUTS UP WITH MY SUPERHERO STUFF, AND SHE'S JUST ALL AROUND GREAT.

I REALLY LIKE HER. WE GET ALONG GREAT WHEN I'M NOT GONE FOR A COUPLE MONTHS. THING IS, I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY SHE GETS UPSET. I MEAN--IT ONLY MAKES SENSE FOR HER TO GET UPSET. SHE WORRIES ABOUT ME.

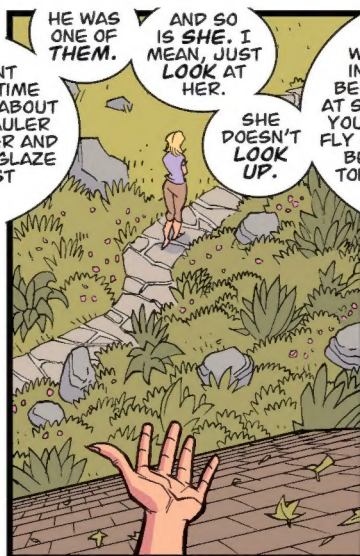
IN A WAY, IT KINDA SUCKS FOR HER TO BE WITH ME. I MEAN, WHEN WE GOT TOGETHER, SHE THOUGHT I WAS JUST A NORMAL GUY. SHE DIDN'T SET OUT TO HAVE A BOYFRIEND LIKE ME.

AND NOW THAT SHE KNOWS... SHE'S DEALING WITH IT REALLY WELL. SO YEAH, THINGS ARE GOOD.



BUT THAT'S NOT REALLY WHAT I ASKED. PEOPLE LIKE YOU AND ME--WE'RE DIFFERENT. YOU CAN'T IGNORE THAT.

IT USED TO MAKE ME WANT TO CRY EVERY TIME I'D TELL WILLIAM ABOUT FIGHTING THE MAULER TWINS OR WHOEVER AND HIS EYES WOULD GLAZE OVER. HE JUST COULDN'T RELATE.



HE WAS ONE OF THEM.

AND SO IS SHE. I MEAN, JUST LOOK AT HER.

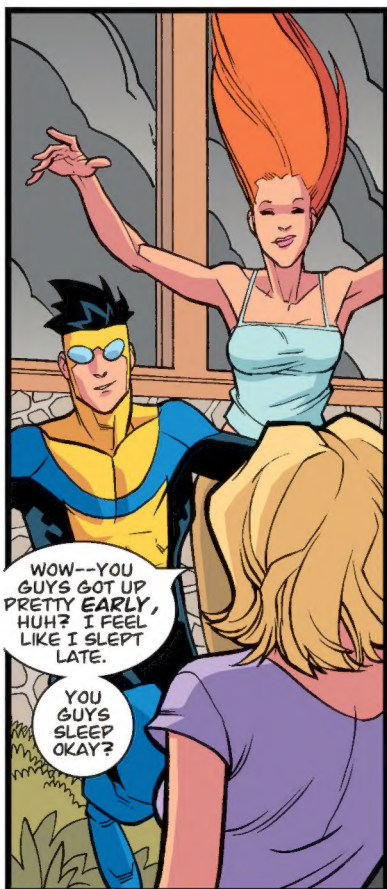
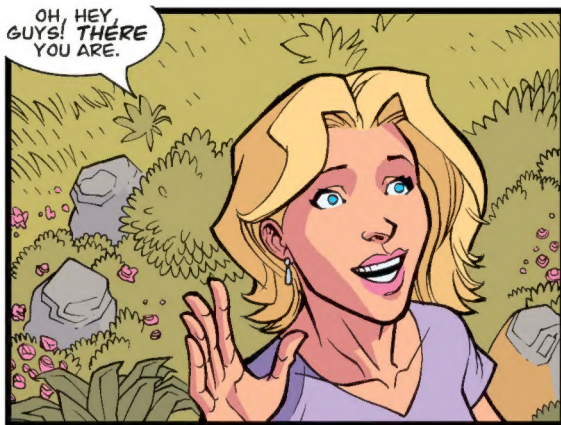
SHE DOESN'T LOOK UP.

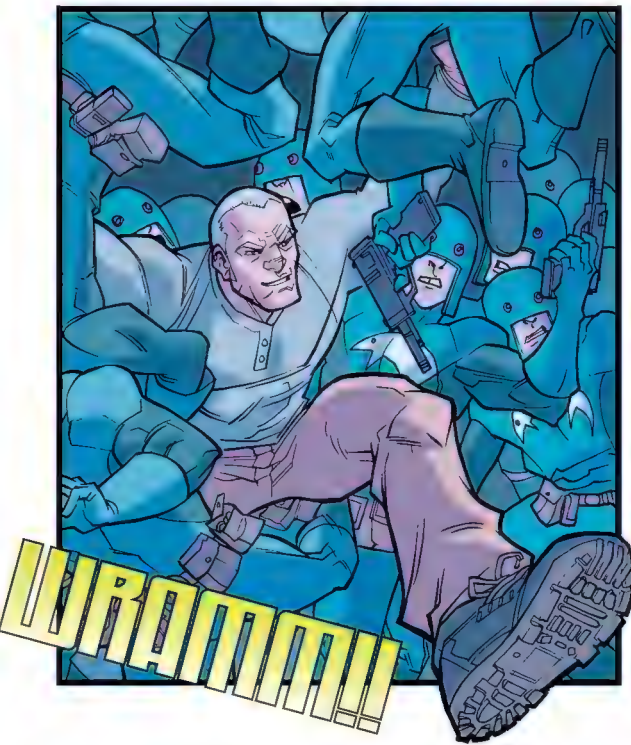
YOU REMEMBER? WE WERE CHANGING INTO OUR COSTUMES BEHIND THE PUMPSTER AT SCHOOL? REMEMBER? YOU ASKED, "HOW DO WE FLY OUT OF HERE WITHOUT BEING SPOTTED?" I TOLD YOU THAT THESE PEOPLE NEVER LOOK UP.

THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS. THEY'RE BLIND TO OUR WORLD--WHAT WE DO--HOW WE LIVE--THE STRESS--THE PRESSURE. THEY DON'T WANT TO BE IN OUR WORLD.



THAT'S WHY THEY NEVER LOOK UP.



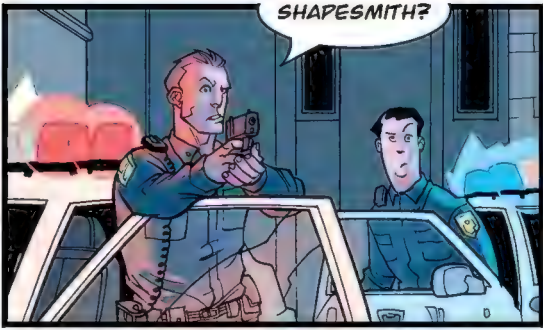


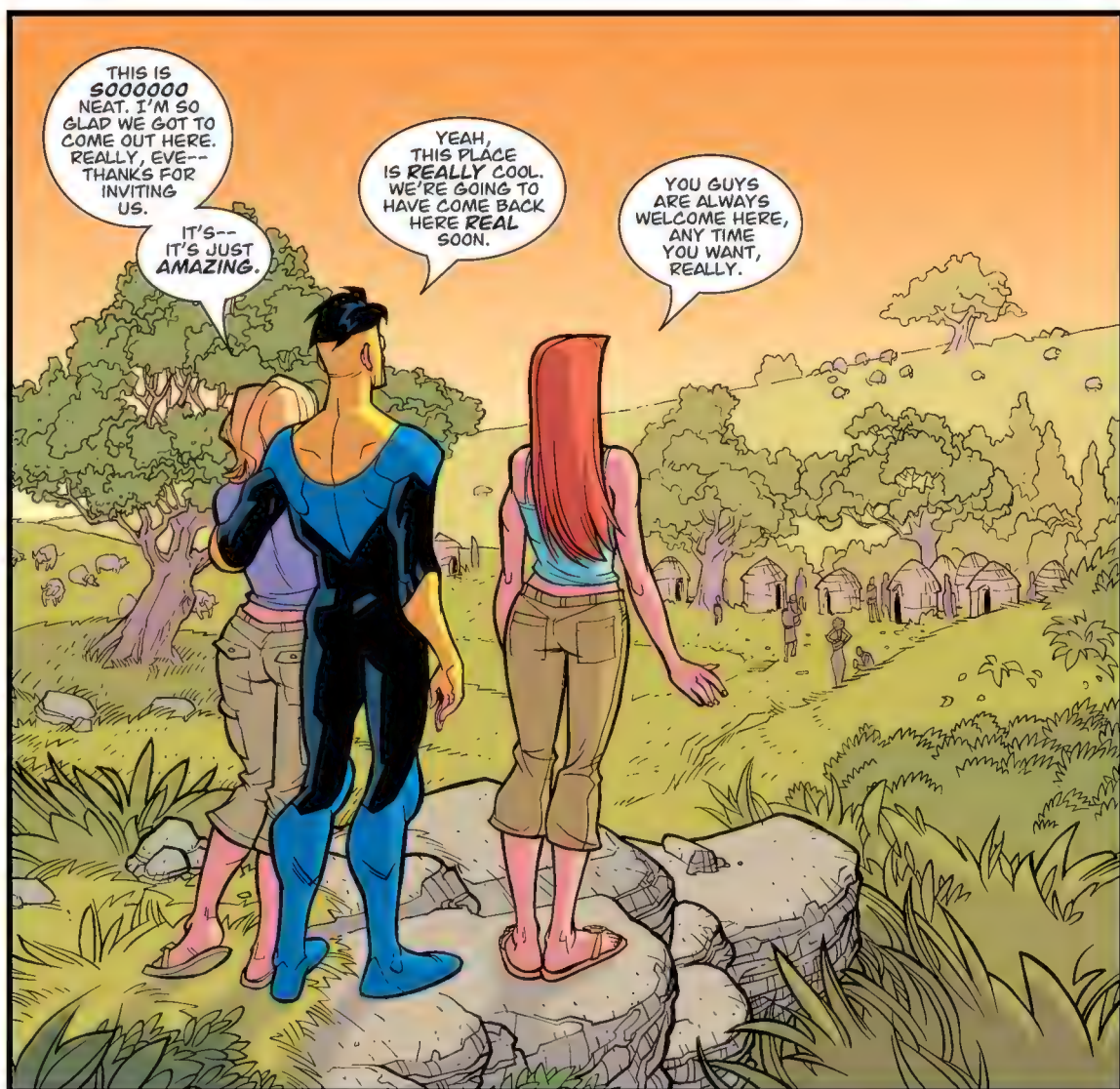


TAKE
THAT, LIZARD
LEAGUE!

I BET
YOU'LL THINK
TWICE BEFORE
YOU AGAIN
FACE--

**THE
SHAPSMITH!**





THIS IS
SOOOOOO
NEAT. I'M SO
GLAD WE GOT TO
COME OUT HERE.
REALLY, EVE--
THANKS FOR
INVITING
US.

IT'S--
IT'S JUST
AMAZING.

YEAH,
THIS PLACE
IS REALLY COOL.
WE'RE GOING TO
HAVE COME BACK
HERE REAL
SOON.

YOU GUYS
ARE ALWAYS
WELCOME HERE,
ANY TIME
YOU WANT,
REALLY.

I CAN'T
WAIT TO TELL
BRIDGET
ALL ABOUT
IT.

WELL, YOU
CAN'T EXACTLY
DO THAT. HOW
IN THE HECK ARE
YOU GOING TO
EXPLAIN GOING TO
AFRICA FOR THE
WEEKEND?

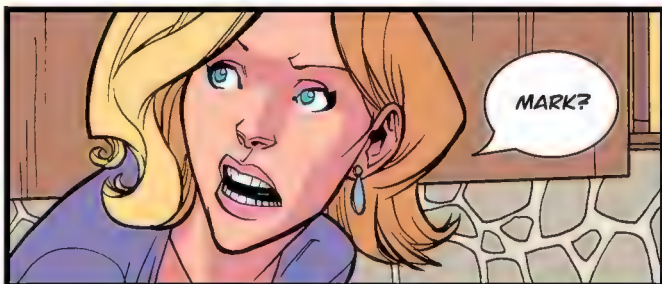
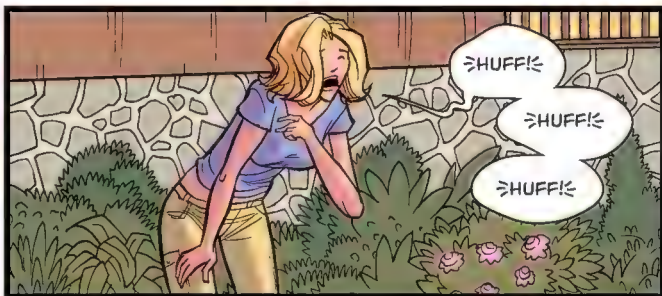
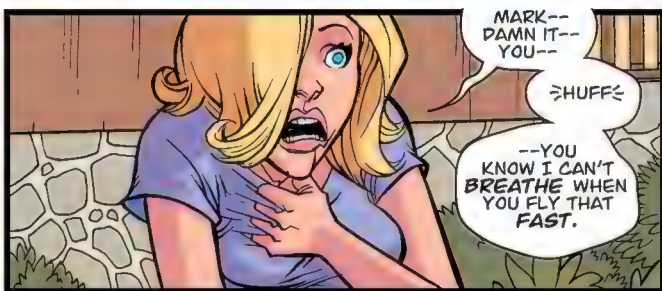
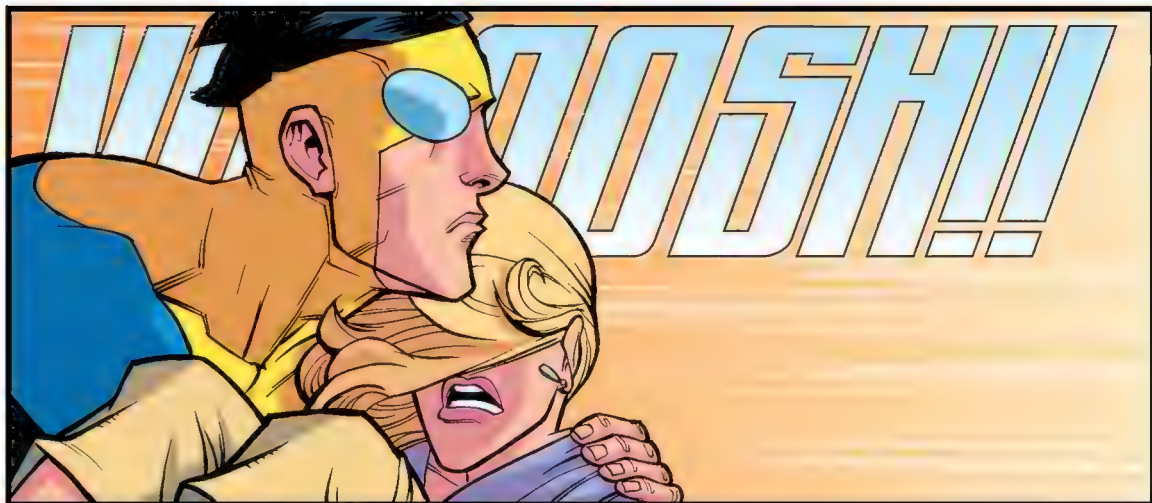
JEEZ, I HADN'T
REALLY THOUGHT
ABOUT THAT. OF
COURSE I CAN'T
TELL HER... OR
ANYONE.

IT'LL
HAVE TO BE
OUR SECRET,
THEN.

DO YOU
HEAR
THAT?

HEAR WHAT?

DESPITE
CONTRARY
POPULAR
BELIEF--I
DO NOT HAVE
SUPER-
HEARING.



AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION.

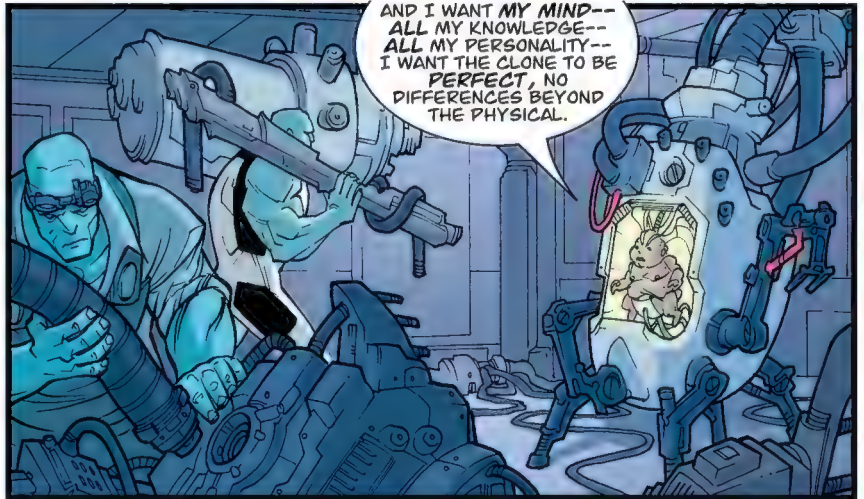


THIS WOULD BE EASIER IF YOU WOULD JUST ALLOW US TO DO THE PROCEDURE AT OUR PLACE.

THEN WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO TAKE THE TIME TO MOVE AND REASSEMBLE EVERYTHING.

NO! FOR WHAT I'M PAYING YOU-- YOU WILL DO EVERY SINGLE THING I ASK YOU TO-- MY WAY.

THIS ISN'T SUPPOSED TO BE EASY.

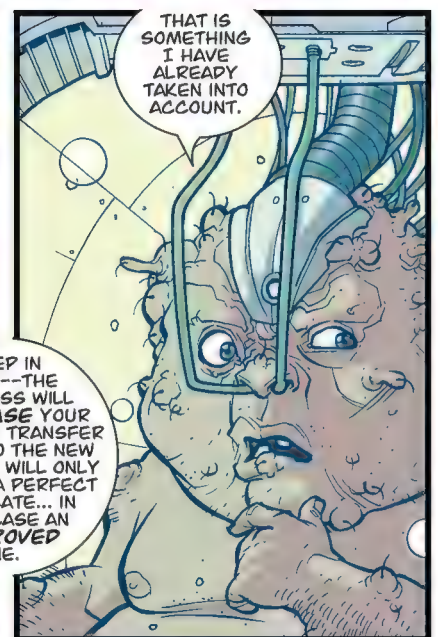


AND I WANT MY MIND-- ALL MY KNOWLEDGE-- ALL MY PERSONALITY-- I WANT THE CLONE TO BE PERFECT, NO DIFFERENCES BEYOND THE PHYSICAL.



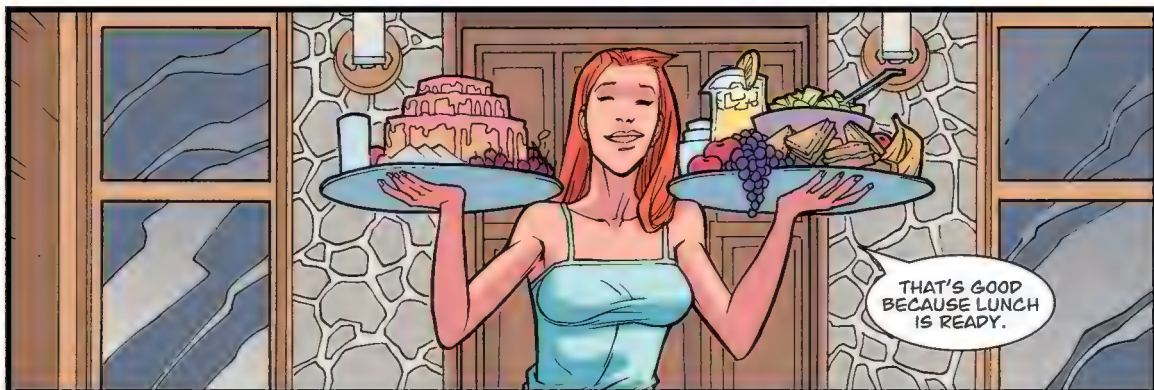
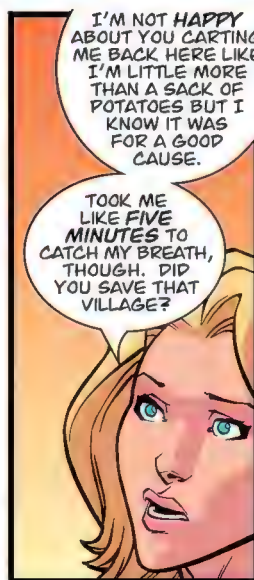
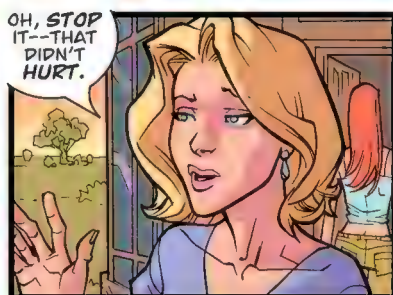
I CLONED THIS ONE A FEW SHORT WEEKS AGO--AND HE CAN'T EVEN TELL. IT'S A SEAMLESS PROCESS. THAT'S WHY YOU'VE CONTACTED US.

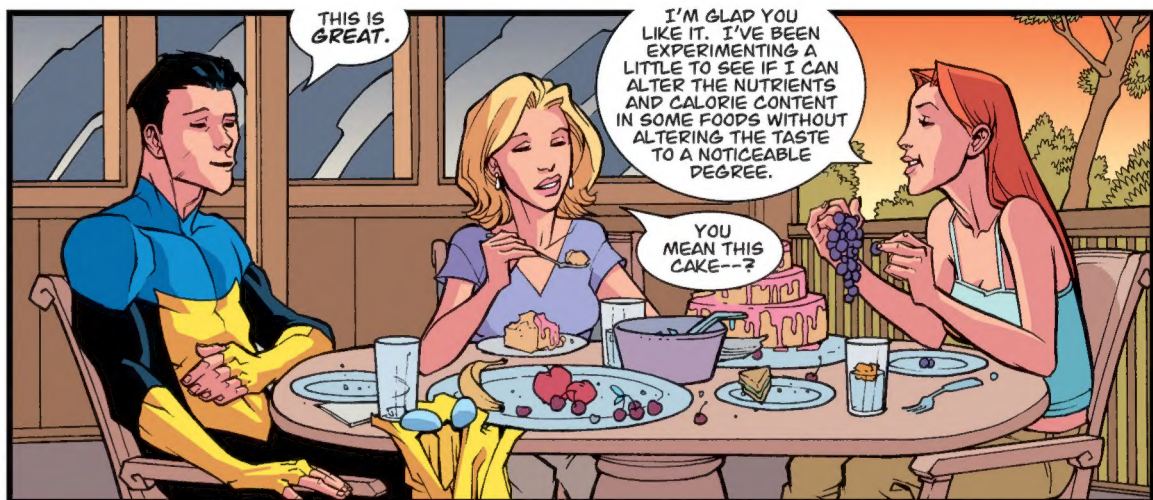
RIGHT-- I'M THE CLONE. THAT'LL BE THE DAY.



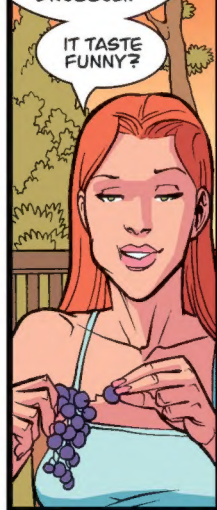
THAT IS SOMETHING I HAVE ALREADY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

KEEP IN MIND--THE PROCESS WILL NOT ERASE YOUR MIND--OR TRANSFER YOU INTO THE NEW BODY--IT WILL ONLY CREATE A PERFECT DUPLICATE... IN THIS CASE AN IMPROVED ONE.



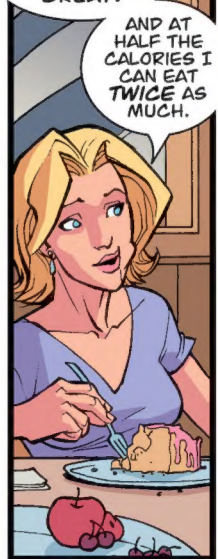


HAS ABOUT HALF THE CALORIES AND ALL THE VITAMINS AND CRAP OF A STALK OF BROCCOLI.



IT TASTE FUNNY?

JUST A LITTLE-- BUT IT'S STILL GREAT.



AND AT HALF THE CALORIES I CAN EAT TWICE AS MUCH.

SLOW DOWN THERE, HON'. I'VE STILL GOT TO CARRY YOU BACK OVER THE ATLANTIC LATER TODAY.

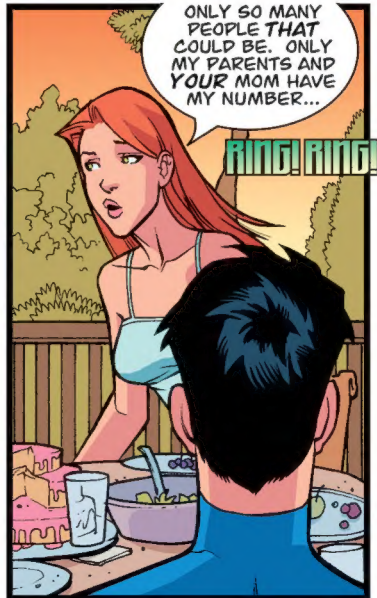
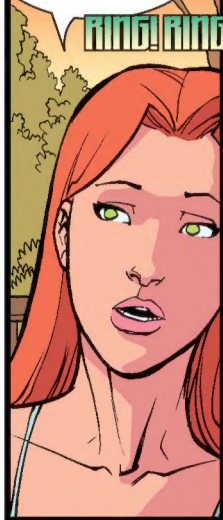


OH, SHUT UP.



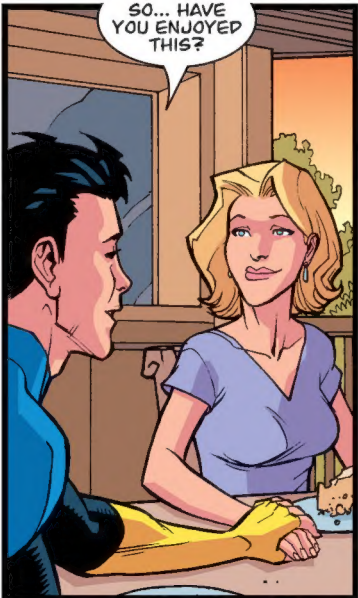
EVE-- PLEASE--YOU'VE GOT TO COME BACK TO SCHOOL WITH ME. YOU COULD LIVE IN MY DORM--ATTEND SOME CLASSES-- MAKE FOOD FOR ME. YOU NEED TO GO TO COLLEGE STILL, RIGHT?

WHY? I DON'T NEED TO LEARN A TRADE. EVERYTHING I NEED--I CAN JUST MAKE.

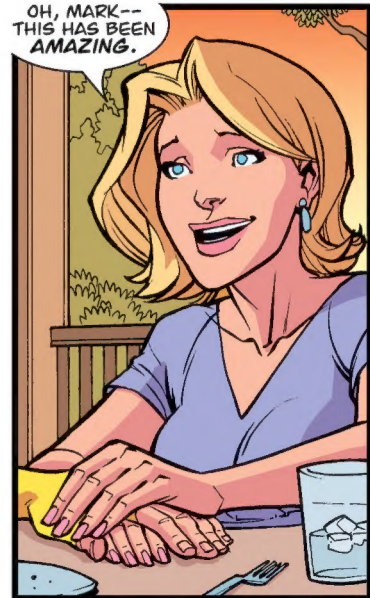


ONLY SO MANY PEOPLE THAT COULD BE. ONLY MY PARENTS AND YOUR MOM HAVE MY NUMBER...

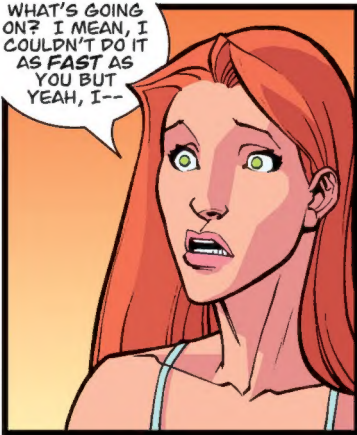
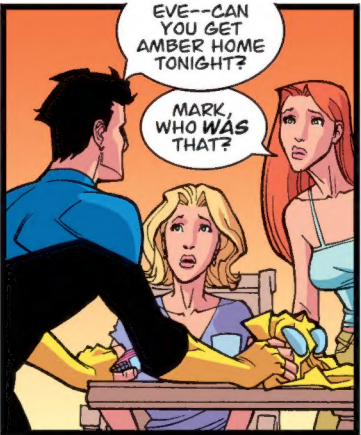
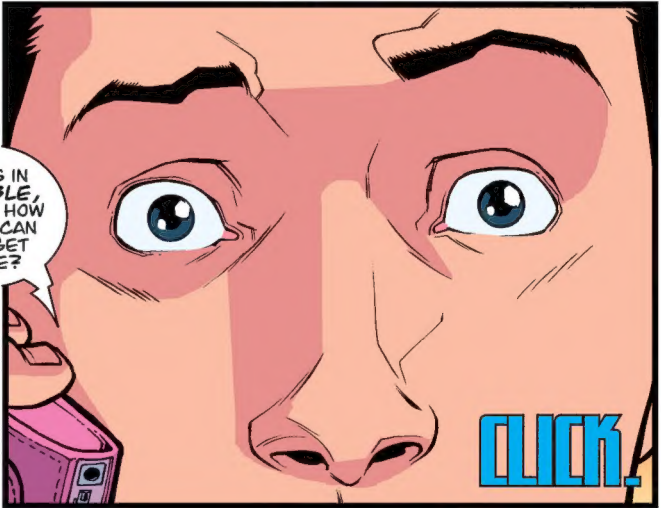
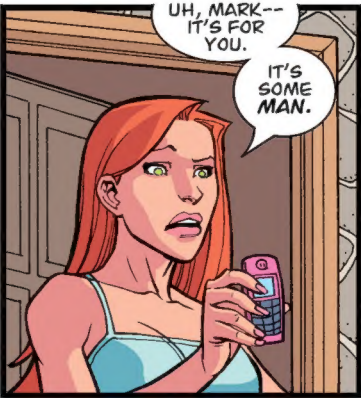
RING! RING!

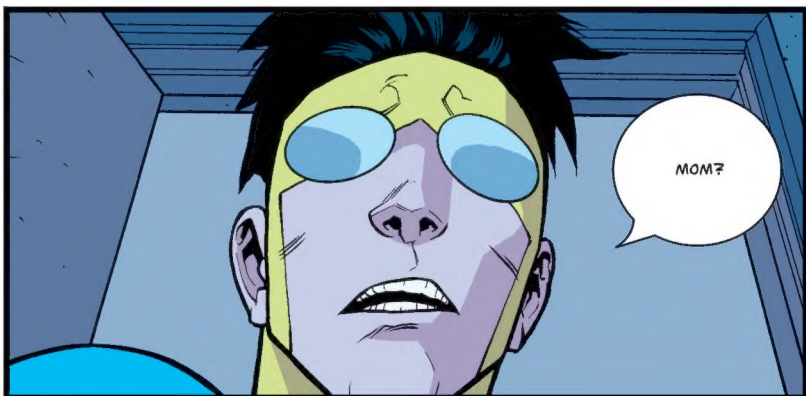


SO... HAVE YOU ENJOYED THIS?



OH, MARK-- THIS HAS BEEN AMAZING.







WELCOME
HOME, MARK
GRAYSON.

I'M
IMPRESSED.
YOU MADE
GOOD
TIME.